

**The Simone de Beauvoir Institute
invites you to hear:**

Wednesday, October 18, 1995 at 12h00 noon

Estelle Cohen

‘What the Women at all Times would Laugh at’: Redefining Equality and Differences ca. 1660-1760

Estelle Cohen is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota, having just completed a year as National Science Foundation Fellow at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science.

Estelle is a cultural historian of gender, science, and medicine, with a particular interest in the ways in which debates in reproductive biology and medicine have interacted with ideologies of gender, family, and the state since the seventeenth century. The subject of reproduction has often figured prominently in political discussions of civil authority and social organization. It has also been a compelling issue in scientific debates, driven by study of sexual anatomy and embryology. Like much recent feminist scholarship, Estelle's work repeatedly illustrates the extent to which the historical record preserves particular developments while suppressing others.

Her paper, "‘What the Women At All Times Would Laugh At:’ Redefining Equality and Difference ca. 1660-1760," is a shorter version of a chapter that will appear in Volume 12 of Osiris on Gender in Science. She is also at work on the manuscript of a book, Gender and the History of Gynecology: Constructing Biology as Social Knowledge ca. 1660-1860, which should appear in 1997. The book will examine the relationship of academic debates about women's bodies to social and cultural ideologies and practices in Western Europe during these two centuries, stressing the multiplicity of discourses on gender and the diversity of arguments about woman's nature.

The Lounge - Simone de Beauvoir Institute
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Information/Reservation : 848-2373 or 848-2372